

CLAIMS

1. A telecommunication system enabling user's terminals that are distributed over a plurality of different territories constituting micro-networks to be put into communication with one another and with at least one operator network, comprising at least one relay satellite provided with means for communicating

with at least one call and control center connected to an operator network, and

with a plurality of base stations each allocated to a specific one of said territories and each having a switching station for setting up local connections between the user's terminals distributed in the specific territory thereof and for setting up outside connections with the call center via the satellite only, said outside connectors being for incoming or outcoming calls other than calls internal to the territory.

2. A system according to claim 1, wherein a terrestrial portion of the base stations are components of standard cellular radio telephone networks.

3. A system according to claim 2, wherein each base station comprises a station subassembly having a base station transceiver and at least a digital cellular network controller, a local switch arranged for directly establishing communications, through at least an antenna, between distant fixed terminals and mobile user's terminals located in the territory served by the base station.

4. A system according to claim 2, wherein each of said base stations comprises a subassembly having a base station transceiver, a digital cellular network controller and a local switch for directly establishing communications with local terrestrial networks.

5. A system according to claim 1, further comprising direct satellite links between at least two of said

micro-networks and traffic interconnection capacities on-board said satellite.

6. A system according to claim 1, further having a direct terrestrial link, by wire or microwave beam
5 between two said base stations.

7. A system according to claim 1, wherein said outside connections via the satellite are carried out on a broadband carrier dedicated to the outcoming traffic toward the base stations, with addressing by an
10 identification header and over a plurality of carriers each having a passband narrower than that of the broadband, each dedicated to one base station for outcoming traffic from the base station.

8. A system according to claim 1, wherein the
15 satellite links have resources which are prededicated to the base stations.

9. A system according to claim 1, having a plurality of communication center and selection means located in the base station for selecting among the communication
20 centers from the base station.

10. In a digital telecommunication system enabling terminals that are distributed over a plurality of different territories each constituting a micro-network to be put into communication with one another and with at
25 least one operator network, comprising at least one relay satellite provided with means for communicating

with at least one call and control center connected to an operator network, and

30 with a plurality of base stations each allocated to a specific territory,

a base station having (a) a switching station for setting up calls and connections between the terminals distributed in the specific territory thereof and (b) means for setting up connections with the satellite via
35 an up-link for communications other than internal to the territory.